

## HONORABLE PHINIA ATEN

## Chief Magistrate Judge Rockdale Judicial Circuit

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## **Press Release**

## Chief Magistrate Judge Phinia Aten Continues to Wed Georgia Couples during Coronavirus Crisis

(Conyers, Georgia) Chief Magistrate Judge Phinia Aten will continue to officiate courthouse weddings in Rockdale County, during the Georgia State of Emergency, while almost all other Georgia judges and many religious leaders have discontinued weddings due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Rockdale County Magistrate Court will perform individual weddings, by appointment, this Friday, March 20, 2020, starting at 2:00 p.m., in the Magistrate Courtroom, 948 Bank Street, Conyers, Georgia 30012. The Court requests that the wedding couple enter the courtroom with no more than two attendants in observance of the latest coronavirus social distancing measures.

Six couples, from Rockdale, Gwinnett and Walton counties, tied the knot on Tuesday afternoon at the Court. "Marriage is an open enrollment opportunity that may instantly broaden healthcare coverage for our uninsured and underinsured families and provide additional legal protections and intangible benefits to couples ready to say 'I do,'" stated Judge Aten. "As many places of worship have shuttered their doors and the courthouse remains open, my duty to perform weddings has become essential" further stated Judge Aten.

Nine wedding requests are currently pending. The wedding ceremonies are scheduled in 10-minute time increments. The couple must present a valid marriage license, issued by a probate court, and government-issued photo identification upon check-in. To schedule a wedding, contact the Rockdale County Magistrate Court at (770) 278-7800 or magcourt@rockdalecountyga.gov.